Proposal to ban cotton exports

743. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to ban cotton exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) no Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) As per Cotton Balance Sheet drawn by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), during cotton season 2008-09, total demand of cotton in the country is 264 lakh bales out of the total production of 290 lakh bales. Only 35 lakh bales of cotton has so far been exported in the cotton year 2008-09 leaving carry over stock of 71.50 lakh bales. Since, there is sufficient stock of cotton in the country, question of banning cotton export doesn't arise at present.

CAG objections regarding selling of surplus land by NTC

744. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) had pulled up the National Textile Corporation (NTC) for violating Government guidelines while selling surplus land and buildings at much lower rates than the market value for the period upto March, 2008; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken, if any on the basis of the CAG report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has done a performance audit on sale of surplus land and buildings of National Textile Corporation (NTC), and tabled their report in the Parliament. The observations of CAG are mainly on procedural aspects. NTC is selling its land as per the decision of a duly constituted Asset Sale Committee as per directions of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstructions (BIFR). The land/buildings are sold at the best price available through transparent open tender process after verification of valuation by the Government valuers.

(b) The suggestions made by the CAG have been noted for further refinement of the system. The Committee on Public Undertaking (COPU) has already taken up the CAG report and the first meeting of the Committee has taken place on 12th November, 2009.

Sericulture activity in Andhra Pradesh

745. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether silk-industry employs about 6 million people who are engaged in various sericulture activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether women constitute over 60 per cent of those employed in down-stream activities like mulberry garden management, leaf harvesting and silkworm rearing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what welfare measures Government has taken for such persons engaged in silk industry during the last five years, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The employment generation from sericulture activities during the year 2008-09 was 6.31 million persons (estimated). The State-wise details of the employment in silk sector including Andhra Pradesh is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of State	Men	Women	Total (in Lakh Persons)
1.	Karnataka	5.70	7.86	13.56
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3.41	4.80	8.21
3.	Tamil Nadu	1.91	2.76	4.67
4.	West Bengal	2.09	2.88	4.97
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.98	2.19	3.17
6.	Other	10.99	17.53	28.52
	TOTAL	25.08	38.02	63.10

(Source : State Department of Sericulture)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It is estimated that 60% of those employed in the pre-cocoon activities such as mulberry cultivation, leaf harvesting, silkworm rearing and cocoon harvesting in the country during the year 2008-09 are women employees. The percentage of women employees in pre-cocoon activities in Andhra Pradesh is 58.27.

The table below indicates the gender wise employment under pre-cocoon sector in different State during 2008-09: